



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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AGENDA DATE: February 6, 2008

TO: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

FROM: Front Country Trails Task Force Staff

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding Considerations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) discuss potential elements of an inter-agency memorandum of understanding (MOU).

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this staff report is to outline some potential considerations of an inter-agency MOU. An inter-agency MOU would provide the vehicle for a City/County/Forest Service partnership. The MOU would establish the intent and expectations of the partnership, respective agency roles and responsibilities, and planning/decision making framework, among other objectives. An MOU would also establish broad priorities and funding commitments.

Detailed work on an MOU would not proceed without direction from the Los Padres Forest Supervisor, County Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Barbara City Council. However, input from the Task Force will help inform its development. The Task Force will have an opportunity to consider the proposed MOU at its meeting on June 4, 2008.

Components and Potential Items/Elements to Consider

Staff developed the following components to consider in the development of an MOU. Many of these components are based on other multi-agency MOUs. Staff specifically considered the cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The Task Force received a copy of this agreement at the November 17, 2007, work session. Another copy is included as an Attachment.

Objectives Section:

- Statement of agreement between the agencies to enter into an MOU.

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- Establish physical area covered by the MOU.
- Identify purpose of MOU (e.g. operational efficiencies, improved service to the public, coordination of objectives, protection of resources, etc.)
- Statement regarding the commitment of respective resources.
- Identify benefits of the MOU (e.g. greater efficiencies, cooperative procedures and practices, standardized signs and rules thereby to promote less confusion and improved cooperation from users, etc.)
- Identify benefit of consistency in planning between the agencies.

Authority:

- To be determined

Statement of Work/Responsibility:

All parties to the MOU:

- Commit respective allocated resources, staff, equipment, facilities, etc. to the common protection and management of the resources and recreation facilities contained within the identified Front Country Trails area without regard to ownership.
- Designate staff liaison for the purpose of coordination matters. Establish when to meet and authority of liaison and agency heads.
- Establish mechanisms to allow the transfer of funds between agencies for specific purposes.
- Seek to attain cooperative procedures and practices that result in efficiencies and cost savings.
- Develop and employ, as practical, operation procedures and standards to ensure joint accomplishments in the Front Country Trails (e.g. public information, fire management, development of policies, administration, public safety, planning, design and construction, signing, etc.)
- Work cooperatively to prepare annual work plan.
- Work toward the development of a Trail Management Plan to provide uniform standards and guidelines for managing the Front Country Trails. Review existing plans and consider their applicability within a common framework.
- Consider the exchange of operational responsibilities within the Front Country Trails where those exchanges result in more cost effective management and/or enhanced public services.
- Determine basis for (scope of work, responsibilities, etc.) and coordination of agreements between the agencies and other entities such as non profit trail organizations and/or advocacy groups.

Individual agency responsibilities:

- To be determined

Terms of the Agreement

- Length of the MOU to be determined

Responsible Parties and Contacts

Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara

Parks Director, County of Santa Barbara

District Ranger, US Forest Service

Expenditure of Funds

- To be determined

Reports

- To be determined

Property Utilization and Disposition

- To be determined

Modification and Termination of MOU

- To be determined

General and Special Provisions

- To be determined

Authorizing Signatures

- Respective Authority of each Agency

Summary

With input from the Task Force, and policy direction from the three agencies, the elements identified above will be further developed into a proposed MOU between the Forest Service, County of Santa Barbara, and City of Santa Barbara.

ATTACHMENT: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Cooperative Agreement

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara